

[3 May, 2007]

RAJYA SABHA

128 Kbps in schools while University Grants Commission (UGC) is providing assistance to colleges for purchase of computers and also internet connection.

Bhagat Singh Chair at Jawaharlal Nehru University

2936. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to set up Bhagat Singh Chair at Jawaharlal Nehru University as a fitting tribute during his birth centenary year;

(b) if so, whether any committee is being constituted to look into the matter and control the financial aspects; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) On the recommendation of National Implementation Committee for Commemoration of the 150th Anniversary of First War of Independence, 1857 and other related events, the Government has taken a decision, in principle, for establishment of Bhagat Singh Chair at Jawaharlal Nehru University.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Out of school children

2937. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 40 per cent of children in the age group of 6-14 are out of schools despite utilization of 86 percent fund of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan in the country;

(b) if so, Government's response thereto and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there has been diversion of SSA funds as well as financial irregularities in many States;

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto and whether Government have taken any steps for effective supervision and monitoring of the SSA scheme at both national and State levels; and

(e) how much funds have been utilized for children's health from SSA scheme during the last three years and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALIASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) As per the reports from the States/UTs, the number of out of school children has come down to 70 lakhs as of April, 2006 which is less than 5% of the total children in the 6-14 years age group.

(c) In the light of the report on the Performance Audit of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), submitted by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India in August, 2006, for the period 2001-02 to 2004-05, and the examination of the points raised therein by the Government of India and State/UT SSA programmes, an amount of about Rs. 53 crores can be classified as expenditure not covered under the SSA guidelines.

(d) The States/UTs have already been strictly instructed to avoid recurrence of such instances in future. Government of India is monitoring the use of SSA funds through annual State/UT audits, independent concurrent financial reviews and field monitoring through 41 social science institutions. In cases of diversion of funds for other educational purposes the Government of India has directed the concerned States to recoup the inadmissible expenditure to the State SSA programmes.

(e) The SSA guidelines do not provide for a school health programme which is in the domain of the National Rural Health Mission.

Attendance of minorities in the schools

2938. SHRI MAHMOOD A. MADANI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been made about attendance of minorities in different classes in the schools in different States; and

(b) if so, the details and the steps being taken to improve the situation?